Exploitation of tourism potential

1717. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the tourism potential yet to be exploited in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to identify and develop the potential tourist spots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Government has prepared 20 Year Perspective Plans for the States/UT Governments with the broad objectives of:

(i) assessing the existing tourism scenario in the States;

(ii) reviewing the status of existing development/investment plans;

(iii) evaluating the existing potential tourist destinations;

(iv) developing sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;

(v) giving plans with short term and long term targets;

(vi) indicating the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and

(vii) preparing an action plan for implementation of identified potential schemes/projects, and for development of infrastructure.

(c) Identification and development of potential tourist spots is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. However, the 20 Year Perspective Plans prepared for the States have given State-wise details and the action plan for its implementation for identified potential development schemes/projects etc.

Baghlihar Hydel Project

1718. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank appointed expert on Baghlihar Hydel Project arbitration matter, has since visited the dam site for an on-the-spot assessment;